
EDITORIAL

The special editors of this issue of *The Journal of American Society for Mass Spectrometry* wish to thank the editorial staff for the opportunity to put together this special issue in honor of Professor Klaus Biemann. The Editor-in-Chief, Michael Gross, initially suggested that a special issue of the journal would be of interest to the membership of the Society in view of the recent election of Klaus Biemann to the National Academy of Sciences. This election brought to focus Klaus' numerous and unique contributions to mass spectrometry and to science in general. It was our view that the special issue would also recognize the contribution that Klaus has made as the mentor of a large number of young scientists as they began their careers in science, either as a graduate student at MIT or as a postdoctoral fellow. As students of the MIT-Mass Spectrometry School, we owe a debt of gratitude that is difficult, if not impossible, to repay. In some small way we hope that this issue will reflect the honor which the students would like to bestow upon Klaus in recognition of his efforts on their behalf.

Putting this special issue together was not an easy task. Perhaps the most difficult decision that was made was whether or not to ask all of the former students and postdoctoral fellows who had been through the laboratory at MIT to contribute. Since this would generate far too large a journal issue, we elected to invite only former students who were active in mass spectrometry and active members of the American Society for Mass Spectrometry. While not everyone could contribute in a timely fashion to this issue, all former students contacted expressed their desire to contribute if possible. Deadlines were set that had to be met for the articles to be considered for this issue.

Each manuscript underwent the regular peer-review process using two outside referees. The editors wish to express particular thanks to these anonymous reviewers who also gave of themselves to review these papers in a very timely fashion. Because most of these reviewers were not directly related to the MIT-Mass Spectrometry School, this was a further display of the respect ASMS members have for Klaus and his contributions to mass spectrometry. We think that the contributions that were made by these reviewers were essential in ensuring the high quality of the manuscripts which make up this special issue.

It was a pleasure and an honor to serve as special editors for this issue. Klaus is a unique scientist as well as a true gentleman. As a scientist, his diversity of interests spanned the breadth of research in mass spectrometry. Klaus has made major contributions to mass spectrometry instrumentation, molecular biology, natural products research, computer software for mass spectrometry, geochemistry, and to extraterrestrial science. His contributions document that the span of research in mass spectrometry is limited only by the overall scope of scientific research. But Klaus has always been more than a scientific mentor to his students. He welcomed them into his home, he hosted their weddings, and he stored their belongings in his basement. He has been a true role model.

On behalf of the former graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, we would like to express to him our deeply felt gratitude for his contributions to our lives and careers as scientists.

Robert C. Murphy and Harry S. Hertz
Editors